

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A printing apparatus comprising:

printing means to which a print image having an area
5 larger than the area of a sheet is inputted to carry out
no-margin printing; and

output means for dividing, on the basis of an
instruction to divide one page of data into a plurality
of pieces and print these pieces on respective pages, a
10 print image corresponding to a sheet to be printed so that
each piece of the print image corresponding to a piece of
the sheet partly overlaps another piece of the print image
corresponding to an adjacent piece of the sheet, and then
outputting these pieces of the print images.

15

2. The printing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
said output means divides the print image so that the pieces
of the print image corresponding to the adjacent pieces
of the sheet overlaps a part of the outside of said sheet
20 to be printed, and outputs these pieces of the print image.

3. The printing apparatus according to claim 1 or 2, wherein
said output means divides the print image so that the pieces
of the print image corresponding to the adjacent pieces
25 of the sheet overlaps a part of the inside of said sheet
to be printed, and outputs these pieces of the print image.

4. The printing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
said output means subjects one page of print data inputted
from input buffering means to affine transformation,
divides the transformed print data, and then outputs the
5 divided print data.

5. The printing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
the number of pieces into which the indicated one page of
print data is divided is inputted using positive integers
10 for an x and y directions of the sheet.

6. The printing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein
the division numbers are calculated for the x and y directions,
respectively, on the basis of an inputted value and the
15 sizes of the sheet in the x and y directions, respectively.

7. The printing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein
said printing means can carry out printing using an outputted
print image in which at least one side of the sheet has
20 an arbitrary size, and said print image is outputted by
indicating one side of the sheet to the printing means on
the basis of said division numbers inputted using the
positive integers for the x and y directions, respectively.

25 8. A printing method utilizing a printing section to which
a print image having an area larger than the area of a sheet
is inputted to carry out no-margin printing, the method

comprising:

an output step of dividing, on the basis of an instruction to divide one page of data into a plurality of pieces and print these pieces on respective pages, a print image corresponding to a sheet to be printed so that each piece of the print image corresponding to a piece of the sheet partly overlaps another piece of the print image corresponding to an adjacent piece of the sheet, and then outputting these pieces of the print images.

10

9. The printing method according to claim 8, wherein said output step comprises dividing the print image so that the pieces of the print image corresponding to the adjacent pieces of the sheet overlaps a part of the outside of said sheet to be printed, and outputting these pieces of the print image.

10. The printing method according to claim 8 or 9, wherein said output step comprises dividing the print image so that the pieces of the print image corresponding to the adjacent pieces of the sheet overlaps a part of the inside of said sheet to be printed, and outputting these pieces of the print image.

11. The printing method according to claim 8, wherein said output step comprises subjecting one page of print data inputted from input buffering section to affine

transformation, dividing the transformed print data, and then outputting the divided print data.

12. The printing method according to claim 8, wherein the
5 number of pieces into which the indicated one page of print data is divided is inputted using positive integers for an x and y directions of the sheet.

13. The printing method according to claim 12, wherein
10 the division numbers are calculated for the x and y directions, respectively, on the basis of an inputted value and the sizes of the sheet in the x and y directions, respectively.

14. The printing method according to claim 13, wherein
15 said printing section can carry out printing using an outputted print image in which at least one side of the sheet has an arbitrary size, and said print image is outputted by indicating one side of the sheet to the printing section on the basis of said division numbers inputted using the
20 positive integers for the x and y directions, respectively.

15. A computer program product for executing a printing method utilizing a printing section to which a print image having an area larger than the area of a sheet is inputted
25 to carry out no-margin printing, said printing method comprising:

an output step of dividing, on the basis of an

instruction to divide one page of data into a plurality of pieces and print these pieces on respective pages, a print image corresponding to a sheet to be printed so that each piece of the print image corresponding to a piece of the sheet partly overlaps another piece of the print image corresponding to an adjacent piece of the sheet, and then outputting these pieces of the print images.

16. The program product according to claim 15, wherein said output step comprises dividing the print image so that the pieces of the print image corresponding to the adjacent pieces of the sheet overlaps a part of the outside of said sheet to be printed, and outputting these pieces of the print image.

17. The program product according to claim 15 or 16, wherein said output step comprises dividing the print image so that the pieces of the print image corresponding to the adjacent pieces of the sheet overlaps a part of the inside of said sheet to be printed, and outputting these pieces of the print image.

18. The program product according to claim 15, wherein said output step comprises subjecting one page of print data inputted from input buffering section to affine transformation, dividing the transformed print data, and then outputting the divided print data.

19. The program product according to claim 15, wherein the number of pieces into which the indicated one page of print data is divided is inputted using positive integers for an x and y directions of the sheet.

5

20. The program product according to claim 19, wherein the division numbers are calculated for the x and y directions, respectively, on the basis of an inputted value and the sizes of the sheet in the x and y directions, respectively.

10

21. The program product according to claim 20, wherein said printing section can carry out printing using an outputted print image in which at least one side of the sheet has an arbitrary size, and said print image is outputted by indicating one side of the sheet to the printing section on the basis of said division numbers inputted using the positive integers for the x and y directions, respectively.

15